Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A machine tool comprising a stationary part and a spindle rotatable relative to the stationary part, the spindle having a shank receiving area for releasably accepting the shank of a cutter or other machine tool accessory, and comprising a first electrical link between the stationary part and the spindle, and a portion of a second electrical link at the shank receiving area in electrical connection with the first link for providing in use a disconnectable electrical link between the spindle and the shank, wherein the portion of the second link is in the form of at least one electrical contact.

24. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 23 wherein the first link and the portion of the second link are arranged to transmit either power or signals, or both power and signals.

25. (Withdrawn) A machine tool according to claim 23 wherein the first link and the portion of the second link each have two paths, one for the transmission of power and the other for the transmission of signals.

26. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 23 wherein the first link is an inductive link having complementary inductors which in use of the machine have relative displacement, one of the inductors being mounted to the spindle and the other of the inductors being mounted to the stationary part.

27. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 23 wherein, the portion of the second link at the shank receiving area includes any electrical link between the shank and the spindle.

28. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 27 wherein, the electrical link comprises a disconnectable physical contact between the spindle and the shank.

29. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 23 wherein the receiving area is in the form of a cavity having an opening and a rear area furthest from the opening and wherein the portion of the second link is disposed closer to the rear area than to the opening.

30. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 29 wherein the portion of the second link is disposed at the rear third of the cavity.

31. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 23, wherein the at least one electrical contact is in the form of a "C" shaped conductive element mounted to a non-conductive block at the shank receiving area.

32. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 31 wherein the block is releasably held at the area.

33. (Currently Amended) A machine tool shank for releasably mounting a machine tool cutter or other machine tool accessory to the spindle of a machine tool comprising a portion of an electrical link in the form of at least one electrical ~~contact~~ contact, wherein, in use, the machine tool shank is supplied with power via the at least one electrical contact.

34. (Previously Presented) A machine tool shank according to claim 33 wherein the at least one electrical contact is in the form of a conductive element and a resilient support supporting the conductive element.

35. (Previously Presented) A machine tool shank according to claim 33 wherein the shank comprises an end closest to a location for attachment of the machine tool cutter or other machine tool accessory and an end distal from the location, wherein the said at least one contact is closer to the distal end than to the end for the said attachment.

36. (Previously Presented) A machine tool shank according to claim 35 wherein the said at least one contact is in the third of the shank closest to the distal end of the shank.

37. (Currently Amended) A machine tool accessory having a shank for releasably mounting the accessory to the spindle of a machine tool comprising a portion of an electrical link in the form of at least one electrical contact, the accessory being supplyable with ~~power, and/or having a signal path,~~ power via the at least one electrical contact.

38. (Currently Amended) A measurement probe having a shank for releasably mounting the ~~accessory~~ measurement probe to the spindle of a machine tool comprising a portion of an electrical link in the form of at least one electrical contact, the ~~accessory~~ measurement probe being supplyable with power, and/or having a signal path, via the at least one electrical ~~contact.~~ contact, wherein the measurement probe comprises at least one of a scanning probe, a touch trigger probe and a non-contact probe.

39. (Currently Amended) A machine tool comprising a stationary part, a spindle rotatable relative to the stationary part having a shank receiving area, a shank releasably acceptable to the shank receiving area, and a machine tool accessory attached to the shank, and comprising a first electrical link between the stationary part and the spindle and a second electrical link at the shank receiving area being in electrical communication with the first link for providing in use a disconnectable electrical link between the spindle and the shank for providing power or a signal for the accessory, wherein the second link is formed as two portions, one portion being mounted to the spindle the other portion being mounted to the shank, wherein each portion has at least one complementary electrical contact for electrical communication between the two portions.

40. (Currently Amended) A machine tool according to claim 39 wherein either one or both of ~~the or each~~ said at least one complementary ~~contacts~~ contact is resiliently mounted.

41. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 39 wherein one of the complementary contacts is non-protruding.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A machine tool according to ~~claim 42~~claim 39 wherein, ~~the portion of~~ the second ~~link the~~ electrical link comprises a disconnectable physical contact between the spindle and the shank.

44. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 39 wherein the receiving area is in the form of a cavity having an opening and a rear area furthest from the opening and wherein the second link is disposed closer to the rear area than to the opening.

45. (Previously Presented) A machine tool according to claim 44 wherein the second link is disposed at the rear third of the cavity.

46. (Currently Amended) A machine tool according to claim 39 wherein alternating current passes through the first and second links at a frequency greater than ~~approximately~~ 20KHz.

47. (Currently Amended) A machine tool according to claim 46 wherein the frequency is ~~approximately~~ 100KHz.

48. (Previously Presented) A machine comprising a stationary part and a rotatable part continuously rotatable relative to the stationary part, the rotatable part having a coupling receiving area for releasably accepting the coupling of a tool or other accessory, and comprising a first electrical link between the stationary and rotatable parts and a portion of a second electrical link at the shank receiving area being in electrical connection with the first link for providing in use a disconnectable electrical link between the rotatable part and the coupling of the tool or other machine accessory, wherein the portion of the second link is in the form of at least one electrical contact.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A machine according to ~~claim 49~~claim 48 wherein, the second electrical link comprises a disconnectable physical contact between the spindle and the shank.

51. (Currently Amended) A machine tool comprising a stationary part and a spindle rotatable relative to the stationary part, the spindle having a shank receiving area for releasably accepting the shank of a cutter or other machine tool accessory, and comprising a first electrical link between the stationary part and the spindle, and a portion of a second electrical link for providing in use a disconnectable electrical link between the spindle and the shank, wherein the portion of the second link is in the form of any electrical link between the shank and the ~~spindle.~~ spindle, wherein, in use, at least one signal path is provided between the stationary part and the shank via the first electrical link and the second electrical link.